



EVERGLADE KITE

For Reference

MAIN SEP 20 2001
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THE AUDUBON SOCIETY
OF THE EVERGLADES

Volume 42, No. 1

OCTOBER 2001

CALENDAR

- TUE., Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m.** - Serena Rinker - "National Wildlife Refuge Week"
- SAT., Oct. 6, 7:30 a.m.** - Birding at J.D. MacArthur Beach SP. Leader: Marvin Greenburg. Meet at Phil Foster parking lot, east end of Blue Heron Bridge, to car pool. Good chance for hawks.
- TUES., Oct. 9 8 a.m.** - Birding for migratory species. Leader: Dorothy Brindle. Spanish River Park, Boca Raton. Meet at south side of Spanish River Blvd., just west of A1A.
- SAT., Oct. 13, 7:30 a.m.** - Birding for migratory species. Leader: Ray Buchholz. Spanish River Park, Boca Raton. Meet as above.
- SAT., Oct. 20, 7:30 a.m.** - Birding for migratory species. Leader: Chuck Weber. Spanish River Park, Boca Raton. Meet as above.
- Nov. 1-4** - Audubon of Florida Assembly. Orlando Airport Marriott.
- SAT. Nov. 3, 9 a.m.** - Beginning Bird Class. Pine Jog Envir. Education Center, WPB. Instructors: Ann Weinrich & Clive Pinnock. Reservations required. 561-582-2235.
- TUES. Nov. 6, 7:30 p.m.** - Jerome Jackson, Ph.D. Florida Gulf Coast University - "Bird Artists"
- SAT. Nov. 10** - Birding trip on restored Kissimmee River. Coordinator: Claudine Laabs. 561-655-9779. Kissimmee Prairie Sanctuary & River Trip. Details in Kite.

Passing of a Friend—

The Audubon Society of the Everglades wishes to express sincere condolences to Alan Parmalee, our 2nd VP, at the loss of his father on September 11. Our thoughts are with him during this saddened time.

"The best portion of a good man's life - his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love."

- William Wordsworth

General Meeting ...

Serena Rinker -

"National Wildlife Refuge Week"

The first national wildlife refuge was established in Florida at Pelican Island in 1903. Now there are over 500 refuges in the United States. Serena Rinker will present a slide program with the highlights of the refuge system.

Serena Rinker is the Public Use Specialist at our Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge in western Boynton Beach, where **REFUGE WEEK** will be celebrated from October 7 through October 13. Serena was born in Los Angeles, received her B.A from Colorado State University, has been a federal employee for 18 years and has been here for 11 years.

Please join us October 2nd at 7:30 p.m. at the Garden Club Building in Dreher Park.

- Claudine Laabs, Program Chair



November 10 - Kissimmee River Trip -

\$ 35 per person includes van ride from West Palm Beach and boat ride on the restored river. We will meet at Penny's parking lot at the Palm Beach Mall at 7:45 a.m.. Please bring a picnic lunch. Limit 14 people. Call Claudine for more information (561-655-9779.)

NOTE -

Our foreign field trips are temporarily on hold.

President's Corner

- Carol Shields

I had the privilege last month of a behind doors look at the breeding efforts for bird species in the Species Survival Plan (SSP) at Chicago's Brookfield Zoo. SSPs manage the captive breeding of selected endangered species in North America under the umbrella of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums. (AAZPA)

Brookfield Zoo's Bird department participates in three SSPs of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association; the Andean Condor, the Bali Mynah, and of particular interest, the Micronesian Kingfisher (*Halcyon Cinnamomina Cinnamomina*.)

The Guam kingfisher is extinct in the wild. Its population stands at 65 birds in 11 North American zoos with Brookfield housing 13, one-fifth of the population. The Guam kingfishers population began to decline after World War II when brown tree snakes were accidentally introduced onto the island.

A cooperative rescue effort between the Guam Department of Aquatic and Wildlife resources and several North American zoos led to the capture of 29 Guam Kingfishers between 1984 and 1986.

The Micronesian Kingfisher is a medium sized bird with a large, strong

beak. The Guam kingfisher is sexually dimorphic; the male has a rusty brown neck, head, and underparts. Its feet are dark brown and the bill is almost all black. The wings are a greenish-blue and the tail is blue. The female, generally smaller, resembles the male except that the chest is lighter brown and the chin and throat are white.

The Guam kingfisher nests and feeds in forests and mixed woodlands. The bird is extremely vocal and can be heard from great distances. It is also very aggressive, known for stealing chickens and harassing other birds and flocks. Mated pairs drill nests in trees from January to July. Both sexes participate in nest excavation and care of the chicks which average 2 per clutch.

The Guam kingfisher is carnivorous. They eat insects and wildlife like geckos, lizards, and grasshoppers. When the birds hunt they swoop to the ground from branches and give their food call. After the kingfisher grabs its prey, the bird perches on a tree branch and beats its prey on the branch while it holds it in its bill. When the prey is dead, it swallows it whole.

The objective of the recovery plan for the Guam Micronesian kingfisher is to establish a wild population of about 1,500 birds. Captive breeding programs are the best solution to prevent the extinction of the kingfisher. Right now zoos are the only facilities capable of performing this task.

Thanks and kudos -

To Claudine Laabs for her work in preparing our first ever international trips to Belize and Amazon. Both were very successful.

Birder's Fieldnotes

- Hank McCall

On Saturday, September 1, ten cars with about 35 birders followed Gloria Hunter for a morning view of the watery flats of Duda Farms. In spite of a pessimistic forecast, the birding was better than good. It was superb!

There were many white pelicans grouped in one big flock with one flamingo in the middle. For more color, we saw more than 100 roseate spoonbills. Wood storks were numerous and two prancing, reddish egrets caught our attention.

Of the smaller birds, black skimmers were abundant as well as black terns. Black Bellied plovers were there, still displaying their nuptial plumage. We also saw pectoral sandpipers in addition to both yellow legs, and peeps.

The habits of birds can be mysterious. After observing three Wilson's phalaropes dabbling and spinning in clockwise rotation, we came upon a contrary bird that was spinning counter-clockwise!

Watch for the future field trips. They will be a fun and rich experience.

Fall Migration!

- Jim Cox,
The Skimmer

Fall songbird migration peaks sometime in late September and early October. Thousands of migrants fly through Florida on their way south, presenting birders with a sometimes confusing array of sound and color. The dull plumage of immature and mature female birds often presents the greatest identification challenge, and many birders spend time paging through the "confusing fall warblers" section in their field guides before venturing out.

Attention Snowbirds

Please let us know when you are leaving Florida and then let us know when you return. Many of you leave messages that say, "Keep this address for the summer and then switch back." Membership cannot keep track of the large number of south and north addresses along with the forwarding dates.

Please make it easy for us all. It is your responsibility to let us know the changes when the date draws near.

Everglades Day

- February 9, 2002

- Diane Rivera

For members interested in planning ASE's Everglades Day event, this is a list of planning meeting dates:

October 4
November 1
December 6

Call Diane at (561) 434-5327 for meeting location and additional information.

Volunteers Needed -

Field Trips - (2 year term) Arrange and manage upcoming field trips for chapter members.

Budget Committee - this is a short term position.

Beginning Birders Workshop

ASE is offering their popular **Beginner's Birding Workshop** again this year at Pine Jog Environmental Center. The half-day workshop teaches students the basics of birding, including identification and equipment. To follow up on what's learned in the classroom, there will be a birding field trip the following weekend.

The workshop will be Saturday, November 3, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. for coffee and donuts. The field trip, location to be determined, is scheduled for the following Saturday, November 10, in the early morning.

We are delighted to have Ann Weinrich, program coordinator at Pine Jog and Clive Pinnoch, director of Okechee Nature Center as our instructors again this year. Their enthusiasm and the presentation of birding information, makes the workshop a comfortable atmosphere with an opportunity to meet others with similar level of interest in birds.

Call 561-582-2235 for reservations. Seating is limited. The fee for the workshop is \$ 10.00 for members, \$ 15.00 for non-members.

Help "Florida's Eagle Lady"

- Leah Schad

Doris Mager, "Florida's Eagle Lady" and very good friend of our chapter, had a few minor setbacks this summer. While on her tour out West, where she gives free lectures to the Native American children, her van and camper blew up, needing immediate replacement. As she told a chapter member, "It's a good thing I hadn't paid myself since last February." In addition, she broke her leg trying to climb a mountain.

We doubt that many of us could go without a paycheck for seven months, but Doris lives quite simply and is quite frugal. We hope that ASE members might be able to help by sending a tax deductible donation to her organization, S.O.A.R., to help offset some of her extraordinary expenses.

Anyone wishing to help her out, regardless of the amount, may do so by sending a check payable to:

S.O.A.R.
c/o Doris Mager
132 Autumn Lane
Clyde
North Carolina 28721.

We know she will be ever so grateful.

The Audubon Society of the Everglades
presents its

4th Annual

Young Naturalist Program

For Children, Ages 6 to 15 (must be accompanied by an adult)

Saturday, October 13

8:30 am to Noon

Gumbo Limbo Nature Center

On A1A - 1 mile south of Spanish River Blvd. in Boca Raton

~ Migration ~

"A Tale of Two Homes"

With programs on
bird and mammal migration
plus activities, wild animals and snacks

The Program is FREE

- Seating is limited -

- Pre-registration is **REQUIRED** -

Call 561-433-4063 by October 10 to reserve your spot!

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK ACTIVITIES (October 7 - 13, 2001)

ARTHUR R. MARSHALL LOXAHATCHEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Sunday, Oct 7

- 9:00 AM - Butterflies & Wildflowers Walk.** Join a naturalist for a walk to view these small wonders of the refuge. Meet at the Visitor Center parking lot.
- 2:00 PM - Swamp Stroll.** Enjoy the beauty of a cypress swamp from a 1/2 mile long boardwalk. Meet at the Visitor Center.
- 4:00 PM - Reptile & Amphibian Walk.** Join a naturalist in the search for these often shy and elusive creatures. Meet at the Marsh Trail.

Friday, Oct 12

- 2:00 PM - National Wildlife Refuge Week County Proclamation.** County Commissioner Carol Roberts will present the official county proclamation for National Wildlife Refuge Week. Meet at the Visitor Center.
- 2:30 PM - Arthur R. Marshall - The Man.** John Marshall gives an in-depth look at the man for whom the refuge was named. Meet in the Visitor Center auditorium.

Saturday, Oct 13

- 7:30 AM - Early Bird Special.** This one mile walk is for the birds and the early risers. Bring binocular and field guide. Meet at the Marsh Trail.
- 8:00 AM - Canoeing The Everglades.** Take a journey through the Everglades with an interpreter on our canoe trail. Bring canoe, PFD, snack, water, sun/rain protection, and repellent. Meet at the Headquarter's Area (Lee Road) boat ramps. **RESERVATION REQUIRED**
- 1:30 PM - Invasive Exotic Plants - Florida's Fatal Attraction.** Some of native Florida's biggest enemies may be in your yard and neighborhood. Find out who they are and what is being done to keep our native plants and animals safe. Join Plant Ecologist Chris Lockhart for an invasive plant workshop. A drawing for a free plant will be held for participants. Visitor Center auditorium.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
(561) 734-8303**

HELP PROTECT FLORIDA'S BIRDS

In Florida, special 3-way membership automatically makes you a member of the National Audubon Society, Audubon of Florida and the Audubon Society of the Everglades. You will receive **AUDUBON Magazine** and **Everglade KITE** to keep you informed about national, state and local environmental issues.

INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIPS

Regular - \$20
Senior Citizen (62+) - \$15
Student - \$15
Two Year - \$30

Memberships in the National Audubon Society make for great Holiday Gifts!

Name _____

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Apt. _____

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Phone _____

Make check payable to NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY and send to:

Membership Chair
Audubon Society of the Everglades
PO Box 16914
West Palm Beach, FL 33416-6914

The Audubon Society of the Everglades General Meetings are held
the first Tuesday of every month, 7:30 p.m. at the West Palm Beach Garden Club Center,
Dreher Park Trail, West Palm Beach (opposite the Science Museum.)
The public is welcome.

Deadline for submissions for the November issue is October 12.



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